



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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In Spirit of Memorial Day, Rep. Kind Votes to Support America's Veterans

Washington, D.C. – As Memorial Day approaches, U.S. Rep. Ron Kind today voted in support of a number of measures that further our commitment to supporting our nation's veterans.

"I believe that there is no greater obligation we have as a country than to our soldiers," Rep. Kind said. "Each of these men and women have sacrificed part of themselves for our country, and in return we owe them the highest debt of gratitude and the best care our country has to offer. I am proud to support these bills that further our commitment to their health and well being once they return home."

- The **Traumatic Brain Injury Health Enhancement & Long-Term Support Act (HR 2199)** creates new research centers and establishes a comprehensive program to treat traumatic brain injuries at Veterans' Affairs (VA) Department health centers. It also establishes a comprehensive screening program and a pilot program of mobile centers, which are intended to improve access to readjustment counseling for returning veterans.

Troops deployed in Iraq are experiencing more brain injuries than veterans from past conflicts because of extended deployments and the common use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). In addition, it is difficult to gauge the pervasiveness of brain injury among U.S. troops in part because of the stigma attached to issues of mental health.

- The **Veterans Outreach Improvement Act (HR 67)** authorizes the Veterans Affairs (VA) Department to partner with state and local governments in reaching out to veterans and their families to ensure that they receive promised benefits. The bill also provides \$25 million in funding for a grant program that would provide financial assistance to states for outreach and benefit assistance activities.
- The **Returning Service Member VA Healthcare Insurance Act (HR 612)** extends the eligibility period from two to five years following discharge or release for veterans who served in combat during or after the Persian Gulf War to receive hospital care, medical services or nursing home care provided by the Veterans Affairs Department.
- The **Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans (HR 1470)** ensures that all Veterans Affairs medical centers have chiropractic care available to veterans by Dec. 31, 2011.